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New Party Will Give Voice to Minorities

By TERRY KIEWER

A growing national political coalition, known as the New Party, will give a voice to students, blacks and other minorities who have been left out of "establishment politics" in America, national party organizer Robert P. Kunst said here Wednesday.

Kunst was in Dallas in connection with a planned press conference for the party's first Texas political candidate, Houston businessman

Benton S. Russell, who is vying for Sen. Ralph Yarborough's seat. Russell was detained in Houston and has rescheduled his initial Dallas appearance for Oct. 24-26, Kunst said.

Kunst described the new party as a coalition of numerous minority groups, chiefly peace, environment and civil-rights organizations. "New party will act as an umbrella for a wide range of popular causes the system has ignored," he said.

"New party will provide an out-in-the-open vehicle for political action by people without any faith in the system — students, blacks, and browns, blue collar workers and middle America," he said.

Kunst said his party plans to "play plurality politics" in upcoming election in Texas, Iowa, North Dakota, Florida and Maryland — five states where New party candidates will run this fall.

NEW PARTY is currently having problems getting candidate Russell on the November ballot in Texas. The party is now filing a case with the U.S. Supreme Court to get his name on the ballot following an Oct. 9 federal court panel decision that "changing the ballot at this late date would be inconvenient for the state."

Plans call for a write-in campaign for Russell if his name fails to make the ballot, Kunst said.

Kunst broadly defined the thrust of New party's platform as "opposition to the military-industrial-labor-education complex in America."

The issues embraced by New party are incorporated into a brief, but potentially controversial, platform that calls for an immediate end to the Southeast Asian war with total withdrawal of American troops and an end to the draft.

THE PLATFORM also calls for complete reorganization of the Central Intelligence Agency; full racial equality in every sector of American life; nationalization, as required, of natural resource industries, particularly the oil industry, to control pollution; full liberation of women and the legalization of marijuana.

The national New party organization is headed by Dr. Benjamin Spock and author Gore Vidal. Plans call for a national convention to be held in 1971, where the party will nominate presidential and vice-presidential candidates.